

**FACT SHEET**  
**AB 1157 (Assembly Member Block):**  
**52% College Counselors**

**Summary:**

The “fifty percent law” is a statute under the California Education Code that requires Community Colleges to spend at least 50% of their budget on “classroom instructors.” AB 1157 will increase this requirement to 52% and include counselors.

**Problem:**

Currently counselors are not included in the fifty percent law. As a result, many students in Community Colleges do not have access to counseling services because of a shortage of counselors. Counselors are a vital part of orientation for new students assisting them with the selection of the right classes. They also serve as mentors to students making sure they are on track in meeting their graduation requirements.

**Solution:**

Commencing with the 2010-11 fiscal year, 52% of each district’s budget must be expended for classroom instructors and counselors.

**Background:**

The Legislative Analyst’s Office recommended action on the fifty percent law because, “a large number of new CCC students who are directed to counseling and orientation do not receive these services. This stems in part from statutory requirements that restrict how much colleges can spend on academic counselors.” AB 1157 will allow colleges the flexibility they need to provide the best mix of services for their students.

**For More Information:**

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